

US Appln No. 09/943,366 - 7

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1, 3, 16, 17, 20 and 22 had been rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Lance, U.S. Patent No. 4,517,259. However, Lance discloses an air motor/fan circulation system for circulating air around a fuel cell power plant circuit. Lance teaches placing an air motor/fan 24 upstream of a fuel cell stack 12. The heat exchanger identified by the examiner is Item 14, which is positioned downstream of the fuel cell stack 12. Air produced by fan 24 is sent first through the fuel cell and, thereafter, into the heat exchanger 14, which in this case is in reality a steam drum. Applicants' Claim 1, as now amended, requires a heat exchanger to be positioned adjacent the fan and air produced by the fan to be directed through the heat exchanger first and, thereafter, into the fuel cells. As such, Lance teaches the way from the now claimed invention. No prima facie case of obvious can be made with respect to Applicants' now claimed invention from the prior art of record.

Claim 4 had been rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Lance 4,517,259. Claim 4, as well as Claims 2-3 and 5-22, depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and are patentable on the same basis as Claim 1.

Claims 6,7 and 15 have been amended in a manner which would make them allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the Claims 1-22 now in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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